

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3051

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the site of the Battle of Camden in South Carolina, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2008

Mr. GRAHAM introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the site of the Battle of Camden in South Carolina, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Battle of Camden
5 Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Battle of Camden, which was fought on
2 August 16, 1780, was a significant defeat for the
3 Americans in the Revolutionary War;

4 (2) Camden was an essential point of control
5 for both the British and American armies in the
6 Southern Campaign because—

7 (A) the British used Camden as—

8 (i) a logistical base for the invasion of
9 North Carolina; and

10 (ii) a key recruitment and organizing
11 point for Loyalists in South Carolina; and

12 (B) the Americans viewed Camden as the
13 key to retaking South Carolina;

14 (3) Major General Horatio Gates, commander
15 of the American Southern Command, led an army of
16 approximately 3,700 against Camden, which was de-
17 fended by British General Lord Charles Cornwallis
18 with an army of approximately 2,200;

19 (4) the Battle of Camden was one of the largest
20 field battles of the Revolutionary War with both ar-
21 mies using a combination of infantry, cavalry, and
22 artillery units;

23 (5) soldiers from South Carolina, Georgia,
24 North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New
25 Jersey, and New York participated in the battle;

1 (6) 68 British soldiers and hundreds of Ameri-
2 cans died in the Battle of Camden;

3 (7) many of the soldiers killed in the Battle of
4 Camden were buried in unmarked graves at the bat-
5 tlefield site;

6 (8) the lessons learned by the Americans at the
7 Battle of Camden sowed the seeds for the eventual
8 American victory in the Revolutionary War 14
9 months later;

10 (9) in 1962, the site of the Battle of Camden
11 was designated as a National Historic Landmark;

12 (10) development interests that are rapidly
13 changing the use of surrounding land from forestry
14 to residential and commercial use threaten the site
15 of the Battle of Camden;

16 (11) in 2002, the Palmetto Conservation Foun-
17 dation acquired and preserved 310 acres at the core
18 of the Battle of Camden;

19 (12) Historic Camden, an affiliated area of the
20 National Park System—

21 (A) is located approximately 6 miles from
22 the site of the Battle of Camden;

23 (B) was a colonial village founded in the
24 1730s;

1 (C) was occupied by Lord Cornwallis from
 2 June 1780 to May 1781; and

3 (D) was one of the few frontier settlements
 4 at which 2 Revolutionary War battles were
 5 fought; and

6 (13) a March 2003 National Park Service re-
 7 connaissance study concluded that further evaluation
 8 of the Battle of Camden and Historic Camden as a
 9 potential addition to the National Park System was
 10 warranted.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 14 the Secretary of the Interior.

15 (2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”
 16 means—

17 (A) the site of the Battle of Camden
 18 fought in South Carolina on August 16, 1780;
 19 and

20 (B) the site of Historic Camden, South
 21 Carolina, which is a National Park System Af-
 22 filiated Area.

23 **SEC. 4. BATTLE OF CAMDEN STUDY.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
 25 study of the study area to evaluate—

1 (1) the national significance of the study area;
2 and

3 (2) the suitability and feasibility of designating
4 the study area as 1 or more units of the National
5 Park System.

6 (b) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study required
7 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use the criteria
8 for the study of areas for potential inclusion in the Na-
9 tional Park System under section 8 of Public Law 91–
10 383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

11 (c) CONTENTS.—The study required under sub-
12 section (a) shall—

13 (1) determine the suitability and feasibility of
14 designating the study area as 1 or more units of the
15 National Park System;

16 (2) include cost estimates for any necessary ac-
17 quisition, development, operation, and maintenance
18 of the study area; and

19 (3) identify alternatives for the management,
20 administration, and protection of the study area.

21 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
22 on which funds are made available to carry out this Act,
23 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural
24 Resources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
25 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate

- 1 a report that describes the findings, conclusions, and rec-
- 2 ommendations of the study.

